



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/636,155	08/07/2003	Michel Bulliard	1262-03	1813
35811	7590	01/05/2005	EXAMINER	
IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US LLP 1650 MARKET ST SUITE 4900 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			SEAMAN, D MARGARET M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1625	

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2005

PRIORITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- ☒ 1. Receipt is acknowledged of priority papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119. The papers have been placed of record in the file.
- ☐ 2. Applicant's claim for priority, based on papers filed in parent Application Number _____ submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119, is acknowledged.
- ☐ 3. The priority papers, submitted _____, after payment of the issue fee are
- ☐ acknowledged
While the priority claim or certified copy filed will be placed in the file record, neither will be reviewed and the patent when published will not include the priority claim.
See 37 CFR 1.55(a)(2).
 - ☐ not acknowledged since the processing fee in 37 CFR 1.17(i) has not been received.
- ☐ 4. For utility and plant applications filed on or after November 29, 2000, the priority claim is not entered because the claim was not presented within the time limit required by 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1). A petition to accept a delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a) - (d) or (f), or 365(a) may be filed. See 37 CFR 1.55(c) and MPEP 201.14(a).

For *Tom Caldwell*
Manager, Publishing Division
Office of Patent Publication
(703) 305-8388

DETAILED ACTION

1. Amendment filed on 09/30/04 is acknowledged. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-14 and 16-22 are pending in the application. Claims 17-22 are withdrawn from the consideration.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert Goozner on 11/29/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim ~~9~~, line 9: replace [container means] with -- containers --;

In claim 12: replace [each container] with -- said plurality of containers --;

Cancel claims 17-22.

2. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-14 and 16 are allowed. The new numbering of claims is 1 through 18. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art cited by the examiner and the prior art cited by the Applicants, in particular Deal et al. (WO 98/51393) disclosing "separation of a two phase mixture by freezing" comprising inserting a conductive pin into a solution, does not teach or fairly suggest the apparatus recited in claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."